



SARC

The Surrey Amateur Radio Club

**December
2016**

Communicator

Christmas

Edition



SCHULZ

The Newsletter of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club

December 2016



At The Last Meeting...

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At 1900 hrs, Stan Williams VA7NF opened the meeting, there were 21 members attending.

Christmas Party

Jinty and Stan provided an overview of the options available for the gifts. A vote is called for the two options

- Have 5 gift certificates + donated items 11 vote for this option
- Have as many prizes as \$100 allows plus donated items 2 vote for this option. A few others abstain

John B. will ask the security company if they will open the underground parking for our event

Due to an activation of the PREOC the meeting was adjourned to the Surrey Fire Services Training Center at Hall #9 at 7:30pm.

Upon resumption, John Schouten VE7TI chaired the remainder of the meeting and welcomed guests and new hams

- VE7HTF Sim Clarke
- VA7LVB Lata Budhdeo
- VA7TBP Angelito Bautista

Announcements

For tonight only, the post meeting social will be at 72nd and King George McDonalds.

In lieu of a December Meeting we will have the Christmas dinner on the 10th.

Financial Report

Please pay tonight for the Christmas Party or pay on the website via PayPal. If using PayPal please select the donation button and place a note stating that it's for the party.

Membership

John Brodie's records today show 83 paid members or recent grads. 20 have not

paid and are not in good standing at this time. An email will be sent to those in arrears. Scott H. has a couple updates for John before an email is sent.

The RAC Insurance submission has gone in for the year.

Communicator

Reminder for everyone in the club to produce articles and content for the newsletter. Email sarccommunicator@outlook.com

QSL Manager

No Report. John Brodie has sent the recent logs to Heinz.

Repeater Manager

Sheldon Ward has not yet visited the repeater site but we still have the cross-talk issue. It seems we have been blocked out of the IRLP 9100 node on the 70cm repeater and we need to resolve how to update the email notification process of our node to find out why.

Net Manager

The position is vacant and there was a request for anyone interested to let the directors know. Rob Gilchrist volunteered to help out after December.

Website

Jeremy Morse has access to the website now and is able to help Hiu and Howard with updates.

SEPAR

Stan Williams provided an overview for new hams about SEPAR, the communications emergency service group in Surrey that forms part of the Surrey Emergency Program under the direction of the Fire Department and Surrey Emergency Program Amateur Radio Society.

The SEPARS net meeting is on the 2m repeater at 7:30pm Tuesdays, simplex on

Thursday evening, and often meets at Fire hall #9 for training sessions.

OTC Operations and Training Centre

Jeremy Morse reported that high speed Internet is working on 2 of 3 stations and after some further adjustments we will have all stations with connected soon.

John Brodie reported that poor ventilation complaints still needs to be escalated with the City.

The other outstanding issue is noise from the electrical room, possibly due to a poor ground.

The lottery grant application result has not yet been received but we should know sometime between now and the Christmas Party. *(see the article in this newsletter - Ed.)*

Kjeld VE7GP asked if it is possible to get a list of when the OTC is open? Because we have limited keys, members interested in operating should contact a key holder for access.

Contest Group

John Schouten reported that there are no field day results as of the meeting but they should be available soon. *(They have since been published, see the article in this newsletter - Ed.)*

Sheldon Ward stated that he has not been participating in contests for the last couple weeks but there are still plenty of contests happening regularly if members are interested.

Robert asked about contest rules. They can seem confusing because each uses different abbreviations and wordings. *(see the article in this newsletter - Ed.)*

Coffee Break 8:11pm

Feature Presentation

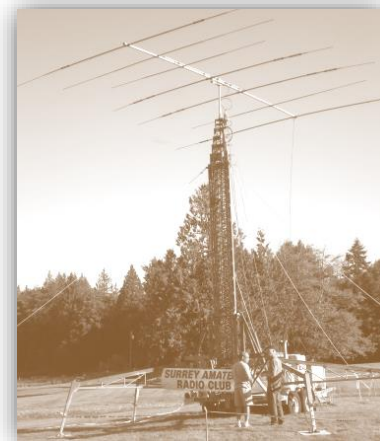
Weather-Proofing PL-259 Connectors an Experiment by John White VA7JW

John provided the group some of his motivation and the results of his weather proofing experiments.

(see the article on the next page - Ed.)

Meeting adjourned @ 9:35pm

~ Minutes prepared by
Jeremy Morse VE7TMY



The **SARC Communicator** is published monthly except July and August for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery of this newsletter, notify **SARCcommunicator @ outlook.com**

Non-members living in the Greater Vancouver area may receive one trial issue.

Beyond our membership area, annual Communicator subscriptions are available for a \$5 donation towards our Field Day fund.

SARC maintains a website at **www.ve7sar.net** that includes club history, meetings, news, photos and other information.

Kalmar Koffee Klatch Reminder



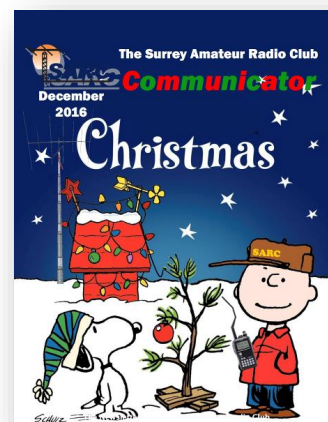
The SARC Weekly Koffee Klatch is on Saturday at the Kalmar Restaurant at 80th and King George Hwy in Surrey at 9:00 am. Bring your significant other, bring your family, see old friends and have fun.

On The Cover...

On the cover, Charlie Brown has his trusty hand-held transceiver at the ready as Snoopy wonders what piece of new HF gear will be in his Christmas stocking.

However you celebrate, make it a safe one and we hope that you will find a little 'ham something' in your stocking.

The Directors of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club wish you and yours a very happy holiday season



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At The Last SARC Meeting

Waterproofing Your Connectors

After the first round of testing in the experiment, there were some surprising results and they were completely unexpected

At the November meeting we had a very entertaining and informative presentation by John White VA7JW. John is a frequent presenter and always shares his knowledge freely. On this occasion, he spoke about his experiments with feedlines and waterproofing connectors. John's premise was "We don't know how well this will work, but the experiment promises to be interesting."

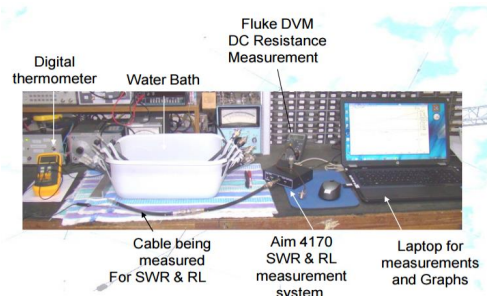
When joining coax together or to an antenna or balun, the connections are exposed to the elements—water is the enemy. This exposure can affect performance of the coax as well as having a negative impact on equipment. John provided an overview of the various types of connectors and the pros and cons of each. The most affordable and common is the PL-259 and the basis of the experiment used here.

John explained how a Standing Wave can be visualized through animations. This standing wave is the sum and difference of both the incident and reflected wave as they travel through the coax. This is known as SWR (Standing Wave Ratio) or the ratio of forward power and reflected power.

The experiment John created used eight different samples, including a control sample. The purpose of soaking samples in a water bath was to accelerate the results and provide worst case scenarios. Terminating resistors were placed on the end of the coax to measure any change in resistance. An automated antenna analyzer was used to measure and graph performance from 1Mhz to 150mhz. This helped provide graphing and imagery to the results.

The eight samples used a variety of available coax seal products and some different techniques for wrapping the coax

by layering 2 or 3 products together to find the best overall solution. John passed samples of the various seals, tapes and heat shrink tubing around the room.



After the first round of testing in the experiment, there were some surprising results and they were completely unexpected. Some adjustments in the tape wrapping technique was required to eliminate small gaps where there was an overlap, possibly drawing in moisture. The entire test was repeated a second time to gain more accurate results.

Once completed, the clear winners were the samples sealed with heat shrink tubing, lined internally with glue, and the pliable coax seal product with tape underneath as a base layer.

John documented his process and findings in a more detailed article that may be accessed at:

http://www.nsarc.ca/tech_archive/Articles/PL-259_Weatherproofing.pdf

Our thanks again for this useful demonstration, you're welcome back anytime John.

~Notes by Jeremy Morse VE7TMY



John White VA7JW



Contesting Explained

A Challenge In Traffic Handling

I was recently asked by one of our Basic Ham class graduates about contesting. For those new to the hobby, or looking for a new challenge, this article may assist. I maintain that contesting is the closest simulation of what things may be like during a real emergency. If you can handle the traffic and pressure during a pile-up in a contest, I'm convinced you would do well handling emergency traffic. SARC has many opportunities for its members to try contesting. Just contact one of our Directors and we'll get you started on one of our stations.—Ed.

Contesting (also known as Radiosport) is a competitive activity pursued by amateur radio operators. In a contest, an amateur radio station, which may be operated by an individual or a team, seeks to contact as many other amateur radio stations as possible in a given period of time and exchange information. Rules for each competition define the amateur radio bands, the mode of communication that may be used, and the kind of information that must be exchanged. The contacts made during the contest contribute to a score by which stations are ranked. Contest sponsors publish the results in magazines and on web sites.

Contesting grew out of other amateur radio activities in the 1920s and 1930s. As intercontinental communications with amateur radio became more common, competitions were formed to challenge stations to make as many contacts as possible with amateur radio stations in other countries. Contests were also formed to provide opportunities for amateur radio operators to practice their message

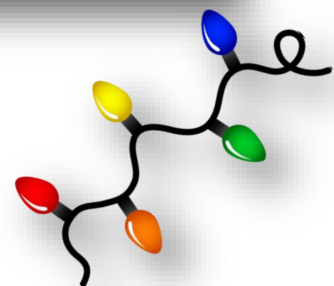
handling skills, used for routine or emergency communications across long distances. Over time, the number and variety of radio contests has increased, and many amateur radio operators today pursue the sport as their primary amateur radio activity.

There is no international authority or governance organization for this sport. Each competition is sponsored separately and has its own set of rules. Contest rules do not necessarily require entrants to comply with voluntary international band plans. Participants must, however, adhere to the amateur radio regulations of the country in which they are located. Because radio contests take place using amateur radio, competitors are generally forbidden by their national amateur radio regulations from being compensated financially for their activity.

Contesting Basics

Radio contests are principally sponsored by amateur radio societies, radio clubs, or radio enthusiast magazines. These organizations publish the rules for the event, collect the operational logs from all stations that operate in the event, cross-check the logs to generate a score for each station, and then publish the results in a magazine, in a society journal, or on a web site. Because the competitions are between stations licensed in the Amateur Radio Service (with the exception of certain contests which sponsor awards for shortwave listeners), which prohibits the use of radio frequencies for pecuniary interests, there are no professional radio contests or professional contesters, and

There is a book written about the international Radiosport Community titled: "Contact Sport" by J.K. George. It gives an interesting insight.



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In a contest, the 'exchange' is the transfer of information required to confirm and log the contact. It may consist of a location, sector, signal report, sequential number, or a combination of the above.

any awards granted by the contest sponsors are typically limited to paper certificates, plaques, or trophies.

During a radio contest, each station attempts to establish two-way contact with other licensed amateur radio stations and exchange information specific to that contest. The information exchanged could include a signal report, a name, the U.S. state or Canadian province in which the station is located, the geographic zone in which the station is located, the Maidenhead grid locator in which the station is located, the age of the operator, or an incrementing serial number. For each contact, the radio operator must correctly receive the call sign of the other station, as well as the information in the "exchange", and record this data, along with the time of the contact and the band or frequency that was used to make the contact, in a log. A contest score is computed based on a formula defined for that contest. A typical formula assigns some number of points for each contact, and a "multiplier" based on some aspect of the exchange such as multiple contacts with the same station on different bands.

The rules for most contests held on the VHF amateur radio bands in North America assign a new multiplier for each new Maidenhead grid locator in the log, rewarding the competitors that make contacts with other stations in the most locations. Many HF contests reward stations with a new multiplier for contacts with stations in each country - often based on the "entities" listed on the DXCC country list maintained by the American Radio Relay League ("ARRL"). Depending

on the rules for a particular contest, each multiplier may count once on each radio band or only once during the contest, regardless of the radio band on which the multiplier was first earned. The points

earned for each contact can be a fixed amount per contact, or can vary based on a geographical relationship such as whether or not the communications crossed a continental or political boundary. Some contests, such as the Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge, award points that are scaled to the distance separating the two stations. Most contests held in Europe on the VHF and microwave bands award 1 point per kilometer of distance between the stations making each contact.

After they are received by the contest sponsor, logs are checked for accuracy. Points can be deducted or credit and multipliers lost if there are errors in the log data for a given contact. Depending on the scoring formula used, the resulting scores of any particular contest can be either a small number of points or in the millions of points. Most contests offer multiple entry categories, and declare winners in each category. Some contests also declare regional winners for specific geographic subdivisions, such as continents, countries, U.S. states or Canadian provinces.

The most common entry category is the single operator category and variations thereof, in which only one individual operates a radio station for the entire duration of the contest. Subdivisions of the single operator category are often made based on the highest power output levels used during the contest, such as a QRP category for single operator stations using no more than five watts of output power, or a High Power category that allows stations to transmit with as much output power as their license permits. Multi-operator categories allow for teams of individuals to operate from a single station, and may either allow for a single radio transmitter or several to be in use simultaneously on different amateur radio bands. Many contests also offer team or club competitions in which the scores of multiple radio stations are combined and ranked.

History of Contesting

The origin of contesting can be traced to the Trans-Atlantic Tests of the early 1920s, when amateur radio operators first

A multi-operator contest effort involves a team of operators at one station.



attempted to establish long distance radiocommunications across the Atlantic Ocean on the short wave amateur radio frequencies. Even after the first two-way communications between North America and Europe were established in 1923, these tests continued to be annual events at which more and more stations were successful in establishing two-way contacts over greater and greater distances. In 1927, the American Radio Relay League, which had been principal in organizing and publicizing these tests, proposed a new format for the annual event, encouraging stations to make as many two-way contacts with stations in other countries as possible. The 1928 International Relay Party, as the event was renamed, was the first organized amateur radio contest. The International Relay Party was an immediate success, and was sponsored annually by the ARRL from 1927 through 1935. In 1936, the contest name changed to the ARRL International DX Contest, the name under which it is known today.

To complement the burst of activity and interest being generated in DX communications by the popularity of the International Relay Parties, the ARRL adopted a competitive operating format for events designed for non-international contacts. The first ARRL All-Sections Sweepstakes Contest was started in 1930. The Sweepstakes required a more complicated exchange of information for each two-way contact that was adapted from the message header structure used by the National Traffic System. The competition was immediately popular, both with those operators active in the NTS who participated as an opportunity to gauge the merits of their station and operating skills, and among those for whom the competitive excitement of the event was the primary attraction. The contest, sponsored annually by the ARRL, became known as the ARRL November Sweepstakes in 1962.

Another important innovation in early contesting was the development of Field Day operating events. The earliest known organized field day activity was held in Great Britain in 1930, and was soon emulated by small events through Europe and North America. The first ARRL International Field Day was held in July, 1933, and publicized through the ARRL's membership journal QST. Field day events were promoted as an opportunity for radio amateurs to

the ARRL's membership journal QST. Field day events were promoted as an opportunity for radio amateurs to operate from portable locations, in environments that simulate what might be encountered during emergency or disaster relief situations. Field day events have traditionally carried the same general operating and scoring structures as other contests, but the emphasis on emergency readiness and capability has historically outweighed the competitive nature of these events.

Modern contests draw upon the heritage of DX communications, traffic handling, and communications readiness. Since 1928, the number and variety of competitive amateur radio operating events have increased. In 1934, contests were sponsored by radio societies in Australia, Canada, Poland, and Spain, and the ARRL sponsored a new contest specifically for the ten meter amateur radio band. By the end of 1937, contests were also being sponsored in Brazil, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, and New Zealand. The first VHF contest was the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes held in 1948, and the first RTTY contest was sponsored by the RTTY Society of Southern California in 1957. The first publication dedicated exclusively to the sport, the National Contest Journal, began circulation in the United States in 1973. The IARU HF World Championship, a worldwide contest sponsored by the International Amateur Radio Union, was known as the IARU Radiosport Championship from its inception in 1977 until the name of the contest changed in 1986. Recognizing the vitality and maturity of the sport, CQ Amateur Radio magazine established the Contest Hall of Fame in 1986. By the turn of the century, contesting had become an established world wide sport, with tens of thousands of active competitors, connected not just through their on air activities, but with specialist web sites, journals, and conventions.

Without a single world wide organizing body or authority for the sport, there has never been a



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world ranking system by which contesters could compare themselves. The vast differences contesters face in the locations from which they operate contests, and the effect that location has on both radio propagation and the proximity to major populations of amateur radio operators also conspired to make comparisons of the top performers in the sport difficult. The first "face to face" World Radiosport Team Championship event was held in July, 1990 in Seattle, Washington, United States, and was an effort to overcome some of these issues by inviting the top contesters from around the world to operate a single contest from similar stations in one compact geographic area. Twenty-two teams of two operators each represented fifteen countries, and

There have been controversies among amateur operators over the impact of dense contest traffic on the popular HF bands, the use of packet cluster systems, log editing, rare station QSYs and other techniques.

Types of Contests

A wide variety of amateur radio contests are sponsored every year. Contest sponsors have crafted competitive events that serve to promote a variety of interests and appeal to diverse audiences. Radio contests typically take place on weekends or local weeknight evenings, and can last from a few hours to forty-eight hours in duration. The rules of each contest will specify which stations are eligible for participation, the radio frequency bands on which they may operate,

the communications modes they may employ, which other amateur radio stations they may contact, and the specific time period during which they may make contacts for the contest.

Some contests restrict participation to stations in a particular geographic area, such as a continent or country. Contests like the European HF Championship aim to

foster competition between stations located in one particular part of the world, specifically Europe. There are contests in which any amateur radio station worldwide may participate and make contact with any other stations for contest credit. The CQ World Wide DX Contest permits stations to contact other stations anywhere else on the planet, and attracts tens of thousands of participating stations each year. In large contests the number of people taking part is a significant percentage of radio amateurs active on the HF

bands, although they in themselves are a small percentage of the total amateurs in the world.

There are regional contests that invite all stations around the world to participate, but restrict which stations each competitor may contact. For example, Japanese stations in the Japan International DX Contest (sponsored by Five Nine magazine) may only contact other stations located outside Japan and vice versa. There are also contests that limit participation to just the stations located in a particular continent or country, even though those stations may work any other station for points.

All contests use one or more amateur radio bands on which competing stations may make two-way contacts. HF contests use one or more of the 160 meter, 80 Meter, 40 Meter, 20 Meter, 15 Meter, and 10 Meter bands. VHF contests use all the amateur radio bands above 50 MHz. Some contests permit activity on all HF or all VHF bands, and may offer points for contacts and multipliers on each band. Other contests may permit activity on all bands but restrict stations to making only one contact with each other station, regardless of band, or may limit multipliers to once per contest instead of once per band. Most VHF contests in North America are similar to the ARRL June VHF QSO Party, and allow contacts on all the amateur radio bands 50 MHz or higher in frequency. Most VHF contests in the United Kingdom, however, are restricted to one amateur radio band at a time. An HF contest with world wide participation that restricts all contest activity to just one band is the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. In Canada, two HF contests are sponsored by Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), the Canada Day and Winter Contests. There are many other provincial contests including the BC QSO Party sponsored by [ORCA](#).

Contests exist for enthusiasts of all modes. Some contests are restricted



included some top competitors from the Soviet Union and nations of the former Eastern Bloc for whom the trip was their first to a western nation. Subsequent WRTC events have been held in 1996 (San Francisco, California, United States), 2000 (Bled, Slovenia), 2002 (Helsinki, Finland), and 2006 (Florianópolis, Brazil). The closest thing to a world championship in the sport of contesting, WRTC 2010 took place

in Moscow, Russia. The 2014 event will be hosted in New England.

to just CW emissions using the Morse code for communications, some are restricted to telephony modes and spoken communications, and some employ digital emissions modes such as RTTY or PSK31. Many popular contests are offered on two separate weekends, one for CW and one for telephony, with all the same rules. The CQ World Wide WPX Contest, for example, is held as a phone-only competition one weekend in March, and a CW-only competition one weekend in May. Some contests, especially those restricted to a single radio frequency band, allow the competing stations to use several different emissions modes. VHF contests typically permit any mode of emission, including some specialty digital modes designed specifically for use on those bands. As with the other variations in contest rules and participation structure, some contest stations and operators choose to specialize in contests on certain modes and may not participate seriously in contests on other modes. Large, worldwide contests on the HF bands can be scheduled for up to forty-eight hours in duration. Typically, these large worldwide contests run from 0000 UTC on Saturday morning until 2359 UTC Sunday evening. Regional and smaller contests often are scheduled for a shorter duration, with twenty-four, twelve, and four hours being common variations.

Many contests employ a concept of "off time" in which a station may operate only a portion of the available time. For example, the ARRL November Sweepstakes is thirty hours long, but each station may be on the air for no more than twenty-four hours. The off-time requirement forces competitive stations to decide when to be on the air making contacts and when to be off the air, and adds a significant element of strategy to the competition. Although common in the 1930s, only a small number of contests today take place over multiple weekends. These

competitions are called "cumulative" contests, and are generally limited to the microwave frequency bands. Short "sprint" contests lasting only a few hours have been popular among contesters that prefer a fast-paced environment, or who cannot devote an entire weekend to a radio contest. A unique feature of the North American Sprint contest is that the operator is required to change frequency after every other contact, introducing another operational skills challenge. Whatever the length of the contest, the top operators are frequently those that can best maintain focus on the tasks of contest operating throughout the event.

Some contests, such as the Maine 2 Meter FM Simplex Challenge, sponsored by the Wireless Society of Southern Maine, offer newly licensed hams the ability to take part in contesting for the first time, by restricting contacts to a single VHF band, and providing entry categories for anything from a handheld radio to a fully equipped contest station.

The wide variety of contests attracts a large variety of contesters and contest stations. The rules and structure of a particular contest can determine the strategies used by competitors to maximize the number of contacts made and multipliers earned. Some stations and operators specialize in certain contests, and either rarely operate in others, or compete in them with less seriousness. As with other sports, contest rules evolve over time, and rule changes are one of the primary sources of controversy in the sport.

Contesting Activity

The scale of activity varies from contest to contest. The largest contests are the annual DX contests that allow world wide participation.

Many of these DX contests have been held annually for fifty years or more, and have devoted followings. Newer contests, those that intentionally restrict participation based on geography, and those that are shorter in duration tend to have fewer participating stations and attract more specialized operators and teams. Over time, contests that fail to attract enough entrants will be abandoned by their sponsor, and new contests will be proposed and sponsored to meet the evolving interests of amateur radio operators.



In a specialized contest in the microwave frequency bands, where only a handful of radio amateurs have the technical skills to construct the necessary equipment, a few contacts just a few kilometers away may be enough to win. In the most popular VHF contests, a well-equipped station in a densely populated region like Central Europe can make over 1,000 contacts on two meters in twenty-four hours. In the CQ World Wide DX Contest, the world's largest HF contest, leading multi-operator stations on phone and CW can make up to 25,000 contacts in a forty-eight-hour period, while even single operators with world-class stations in rare locations have been known to exceed 10,000 contacts, an average of over three per minute, every minute. Over 30,000 amateur radio operators participated in the phone

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weekend of the 2000 CQ World Wide DX Contest, and the top-scoring single operator station that year, located in the Galápagos Islands, made over 9,000 contacts. Other HF contests are not as large, and some specialty events, such as those for QRP enthusiasts, can attract no more than a few dozen competitors.

Station Locations

The geographic location of a station can impact its potential performance in radio contests. In almost all contests it helps to be in a rare location close to a major population center. Because the scoring formula in most contests uses the number of different locations contacted (such as countries, states or grid locators) as a multiplier, contacts with stations in rare locations are in high demand. In contests on the VHF and higher frequency bands, having a location at a high altitude with unobstructed line of sight in all directions is also a major advantage. With range limited to around 1000 kilometers in normal radio propagation conditions, a location on high ground close to a major metropolitan area is an often unbeatable advantage in VHF contests. In the large international HF DX contests, stations in the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, close to Europe and eastern North America with their high densities of active contest stations, are frequently the winners. Aruba, Curaçao, the Canary Islands, the Cape Verde Islands, Madeira Island, coastal Morocco and the islands of Trinidad

and Tobago have been the sites of some of the most famous radio contesting victories in the large world wide contests. Competition between stations in large countries, such as Canada, Russia, or the United States can be greatly affected by the geographic locations of each station. Because of these variations, some stations may specialize in only those contests where they are not at a disadvantage, or may measure their own success against only nearby rivals.

Many radio amateurs are happy to contest from home, often with relatively low output power and simple antennas. Some of these operators at modest home stations operate competitively and others are simply on the air to give away some points to serious stations or to chase some unusual propagation. More serious radio contesters will spend significant sums of money and invest a lot of time building a potentially winning station, whether at home, a local mountain top, or in a distant country. Operators without the financial resources to build their own station establish relationships with those that do and "guest operate" at other stations during contests. Contesting is often combined with a DX-pedition, where amateur radio operators travel to a location where amateur radio activity is infrequent or uncommon.

Several contests are designed to encourage outdoor operations, and are known as field days. The motivating purpose of these events is

to prepare operators for emergency readiness, but many enjoy the fun of operating in the most basic of circumstances. The rules for most field day events require or strongly incent

participating stations to use generator or battery power, and temporary antennas. This can create a more level playing field, as all stations are constructed in a similar manner.

A Typical Contest Exchange

Contacts between stations in a contest are often brief. A typical exchange between two stations on voice — in this case between a station in England and one in New Zealand in the CQ World Wide DX Contest — might proceed as follows:

Station 1: CQ contest Mike Two Whiskey, Mike Two Whiskey, contest. (Station M2W is soliciting a contact in the contest)

Station 2: Zulu Lima Six Quebec Hotel (The station calling, ZL6QH, gives only his callsign. No more information is needed.)

Station 1: ZL6QH 59 14 (said as "five nine one four").

(M2W confirms the ZL6QH call sign, sends a signal report of 59, and is in Zone 14 (Western Europe).)

Station 2: Thanks 59 32 (said as "five nine three two").

(ZL6QH confirms reception of M2W's exchange, sends a signal report of 59, and is in Zone 32 (South Pacific).)

Station 1: 73. Mike Two Whiskey QRZ?

(M2W confirms ZL6QH's exchange, is now listening for new stations.)

On Morse code, suitable well-known abbreviations are used to keep the contact as brief as possible. Skilled contesters can maintain a "rate" over four contacts per minute on Morse code, or up to ten contacts per minute on voice during peak propagation periods, using this short format. The peak rate of contacts that can be made during contests that employ longer exchanges with more information that must be sent, received, and acknowledged, will be necessarily lower.



Logs and Log Checking

Most serious competitive stations log their contest contacts using contest logging software, although some continue to use paper and pencil. There are many different software logging programs written specifically for radio contesting. Computer logging programs can handle many additional duties besides simply recording the log data; they can keep a running score based upon the formula of the contest, track which available multipliers have been "worked" and which have not, and provide the operator with visual clues about how many contacts are being made on which bands. Some contest software even provide a means to control the station equipment via computer, retrieve data from the radio and send pre-recorded Morse code, voice or digital messages. After the conclusion of a contest, each station must submit its operational log to the contest sponsor. Many sponsors accept logs by e-mail by upload on web sites, or even by postal mail.

Once a contest sponsor receives all the logs from the competitors, the logs undergo a process known as "cross-checking." In cross-checking, the contest sponsor will match up the contacts recorded in the logs and look for errors or omissions. Most contests enforce stiff points penalties for inaccuracies in the log, which means that the need for speed in operation must be balanced against the requirement for accuracy. It is not uncommon for a station to lead in points at the end of the contest, but slip behind a more accurate competitor after the cross-checking process has assessed penalties. Some contest sponsors provide custom log checking reports to participating stations that offer details about the errors in their log and how they were penalized.

Results and Awards

Most contests are sponsored by organizations that either publish a membership journal, or sell a radio enthusiast magazine as their business.

The results of radio contest events are printed in these publications, and often include an article describing the event and highlighting the victors. Contest results articles might also include photographs of radio stations and operators in the contest, and a detailed listing of the scores of every participating station. In addition to publication in magazines and journals, many contest sponsors also publish results on web sites, often in a format similar to that found in print. Some contest sponsors offer the raw score results data in a format that enables searching or other data analysis. The American Radio Relay League, for example, offers this raw line score data to any of its members, and offers the summary report of the winners and the line score data in a non-searchable format to anyone through their web site.

Because radio contests take place using amateur radio, competitors are forbidden by regulation from being compensated financially for their activity. This international regulatory restriction of the Amateur Radio Service precludes the development of a professional sport. In addition to the recognition of their peers, winners in radio contests do, however, often receive paper certificates, wooden plaques, trophies, engraved gavels, or medals in recognition of their achievements. Some contests provide trophies of nominal economic value that highlight their local agricultural or cultural heritage, such as smoked salmon (for the Washington State Salmon Run contest) or a bottle of wine (for the California QSO Party).

Watch a forthcoming Communicator for an article on logging software -Ed.



December 2016



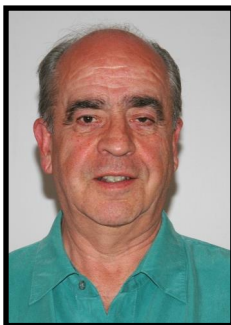
QRM

...from the Editor's Shack

*Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share?
An Interesting link?*

*Something to sell or something you are looking for?
eMail it to [SARCcommunicator @ outlook.com](mailto:SARCcommunicator@outlook.com) for inclusion in this column.*

Silent Key: Doug Barry VE7TP / VE7WLF



It seems like we've lost a lot of good Hams lately...

With sadness that we learned of the passing of Doug Barry, VE7WLF / VE7TP on October 31st.

Michel Latendresse, Deputy Chief - Emergency Management Division, Delta Fire Rescue & Emergency Services, shared the sad news with the British Columbia emergency management community today:

It's with profound personal regret that I inform you of Doug Barry's death. Doug passed away early this morning at Royal Columbia Hospital three days post surgery due to respiratory complications.

Doug was Delta's Municipal Emergency Radio Coordinator, a long public safety lifeline volunteer with PEP Air and President of the Delta Amateur Radio Society.

After serving many years with Delta Emergency Management, Doug was an accomplished and valued member of our emergency management team, dedicating much of his time helping others.

Doug's commitment to the community and people of Delta was unwavering and he will truly be missed. He was an inspiration and a great role model to us all. A memorial service is being planned by his family and we will be advised once these details are finalized.

Retired from Air Traffic Control service, Doug gave of his time to the PEP Air-CASARA air search and rescue program.

Our thoughts are with Doug's wife Irene and their family.



Norm Schmidt VE7IIT had a bad fall a couple of weeks ago. He suffered multiple contusions to his face and looked like he had been in a fight... a bad one. His first remark, typical Norm: "You should have seen the other guy." He is recovering at home and sorry he is unable to make the Saturday coffee meetings.





Page 13—News You Can Lose

The Lighter Side of Amateur Radio

Time Is Like A River

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life. As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

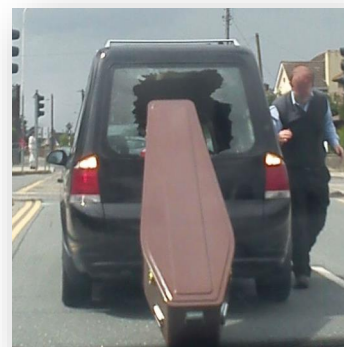
I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in

place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together.

When finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently, I'm still lost....it's a guy thing.



VERMILION, OREGON - The Vermilion City Amateur Radio Club awoke early yesterday morning to the cries of local children tangled in their 80m dipole.

pokemon_dipole "From far away I could see the screens of their iPhones glowing as they called out for help in getting untangled. It was the loudest racket I've ever heard," said Ash Allman, who lead the effort in freeing the kids.



The children were caught in the dipole after the S.S. Anne Park and Marina was named a Pokéstop in the popular mobile game Pokémon GO. A Pokéstop is

an area, typically a landmark or park, where Pokémon Trainers can converge to get prizes and set lures to attract rare Pokémon characters. A player must physically visit these locations to collect the rewards.

"We were all set up to work into the night, but the band conditions went south so we decided to get some rest," lamented Misty Brock, the event organizer. "It wasn't until morning that we found about a dozen kids wrapped up in the legs of the dipole."

At press time, the special event station had been forced to cease operation due to lack of participation, with one member finding a high-level Charmander character in his tent and the rest wandering the nearby tree line looking for a Clefairy.

~ Ham Hijinks

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Back to Basics

John Schouten VE7TI

From The Basic Question Bank

B-001-010-010

Which of these amateur bands may be heavily occupied by licence exempt devices?

- A 135.7 to 137.8 kHz
- B 902 to 928 MHz
- C 3.5 to 4.0 MHz
- D 430 to 450 MHz

The 33cm or 900 MHz band is a portion of the UHF radio spectrum internationally allocated to amateur radio on a secondary basis. It ranges from 902 to 928 MHz and is unique to ITU Region 2.

Amateur Radio has a vast amount of spectrum to choose from, most of it available even to those with only a Basic qualification. Remember, Basic gives you access to all Ham bands above 30 Mhz, excluding you only from the HF spectrum.

Amateur Radio licencees are secondary users on some bands however. This means that other services, generally of a commercial nature, have first priority and we may not interfere with their use, with a few exceptions. Amateur stations must accept harmful interference caused by Industrial Scientific Medical (ISM) users but may receive protection from unlicensed devices.

The band is primarily used for very local communications as opposed to bands lower in frequency. However, very high antennas with high gain have shown 33 cm can provide good long range communications almost equal to systems on lower frequencies such as the 70 centimeter band. The band is also used by industrial, scientific, and medical (ISM) equipment, as well as low powered unlicensed devices. In the mid-1990s, many cordless phone manufacturers started producing phones that used the lower and upper ends of the 33 centimeter band for communication between the handset and base. These phones, which are

regulated, have made amateur use of the upper and lower end of the 33 centimeter band somewhat tricky due to the number of these phones used by the general population. These devices, by law, must accept interference from any licensed radio service with which they share frequencies.

MotoTalk Nextel or DirectTalk, use the 900 MHz band. They use FHSS and employs 10 "channels" and 15 "privacy codes". This is available as a feature on several of the walkie-talkie phones, for "off network" simplex communications. Motorola makes a line of walkie-talkies that are digital units. They are very similar to the DirectTalk-capable iDEN cellphones. Trisquare makes a line of walkie-talkies (the eXtreme Radio Service family) that are also license free FHSS units, operating in the 900 MHz band. They are similar to DirectTalk but not compatible.

In the early 1990s, wireless computer networking was just becoming affordable. Several competing technologies emerged that made use of the 902-928 MHz band.

The band is used for Amateur TV, CW, Repeaters and even for SSB and FM phone. Many amateurs have found the 33 centimeter band to be ideal for linking repeaters together. Some of the biggest linked repeater systems in the United States use the 33 centimeter band as their link backbone. The 33 centimeter band offers excellent building penetration characteristics since the wavelength is relatively small, but in general, propagation is about 70% of the 430 Mhz UHF band. In many areas, the 33 centimeter band also has a very low noise floor as compared to bands lower in frequency.

The correct answer therefore is B the 902 to 928 MHz band.

~ John VE7TI



Tech Tips

Clean Those Headphones!

It's not surprising how dirty headphones can get. We place them over or in our ears and often share them. I'm guilty of rarely cleaning my headphones, since I'm the only one who generally uses them, but hygiene isn't the only factor to consider when cleaning. Any oils or ear wax left on your headphones can impact the sound quality of your headphones especially the in-ear variety. With this in mind, try to make cleaning up your headphones a regular habit.

First you'll need to gather some supplies, all of which you probably already have around the house. You'll need:

- A dish with soap and warm water (detergent will work just fine)
- A soft cloth
- A toothbrush
- A small towel

Once you've gathered the supplies, wet the cloth in the soap and water. Don't soak the cloth; instead only get it a little damp. We are dealing with electronics here. The less water the better.

I recommend removing both the pads and the tips, when possible. This allows you to thoroughly wipe down either component

without fear of getting water into the headphones themselves. Gently wipe down the headphone pads or in-ear tips with the damp cloth.

For the more stubborn debris and residue, use a dry toothbrush to loosen it up and then wipe it down with the cloth. After everything is wiped down, let it sit on the extra towel to air dry. Once it's dry, put it back together and resume using it as usual.

Some manufacturers recommend using different techniques. For example, Bose recommends using either hydrogen peroxide or soap and water to clean the various parts of its headphones. Others use Isopropyl alcohol (NOT rubbing alcohol). It's always a good idea to check the manufacturer's site for your respective brand, but the process outlined above is a decent starting point for all headphones.

~ C-Net



Spotted in a newspaper ad and apparently it's not a joke. But seriously folks... perhaps its from an Amateur wanting to go back to a more favourable time in the solar cycle and maybe the weapon of choice is an iCom!



December 2016



Radio-Active

Geoff Higginson VA7HIG

Profiles of Active Local Hams



Cliff Hine VE7FD

Ham and Second Generation Telegraph Operator Still Has the “Bug” after nearly 60 years

A Pioneer in the modern communications era and long-time Ham, Cliff Hine VE7FD (And VE7FDR) winds down a bit in Walnut Grove, passing on his Kenwood TS 520 and PS 30 to a new ham but staying on air with his Kenwood TH 21AT handheld and Yaesu FT 2400 2-metre base rig. Little did I know when looking for a power supply for my new Icom 2300H (with immense thanks to the Maple Ridge Amateur Radio Association Swap and Burnaby Radio Draw) that I would find both a superb power supply a high frequency radio and Cliff, a fine Elmer with such a great life story to hear.

Born in Saskatoon at midwife Mrs. Aimer's home, during a time when your birth certificate had your location as Section # and Township, Cliff's dad was a railroad agent and so he moved a lot when in school, but eventually after finishing grade eight in Saskatchewan he went to work at 15 as a telegraph runner/messenger boy on two wheels, winter and summer in Regina. While here he had room and board for some time only two blocks from the infamous Louis Riel's Jailhouse. After this stint Cliff went into construction for three or four years until destiny came knocking when his brother and sister in law needed help running the telephone office and post office just south of Lethbridge where he stayed for about a year. When his brother needed to get his teeth fixed he was called into service at

the telegraph and railway office. Already having learned telegraph code from his father at eleven years old he was able to go into service during his brother's absence. When he took his first message he replied that he was just filling in and soon he got a call from the telegraph office asking him to take a job in the Calgary commercial office. In those days the only news service was through the telegraph office and he would copy news reports and send them by messenger all over town.

The boss, Mr. Leslie, called him into his office one day and as he had taken the Motorola FM course, T and R (Testing and Regulating) sent him to Medicine Hat as a replacement and shortly after he was given a posting to Field B.C. While in Medicine Hat he worked with an operator who had had an accident with a train and sent code like nobody's business missing one hand and four fingers on the other. He is a truly independent and determined character.

One night, at about twenty years of age, he heard this strange sounding code in the air and followed the sound to a home nearby. He knocked on the door and met ham John Stewart VE6CD, who introduced him to the world of ham radio and international code. In 1957 he received his conditional license as a ham. This license was good for a year and possible if the closest radio inspector was more than a day travel from your location. He was working at the CP Telecom Office (call FO) in Field which in his day was a repeater office. It had stand by battery power and



city power, and provided land-line booster power as well. An RCMP friend of his said that in the 40's it would sometimes take days to get a long distance call put through the system. The repeaters were used to broadcast all the CBC Radio Network Programming and were generally set up every 130 miles. The mainline went through Calgary, Field, Revelstoke, Kamloops, North Bend and Vancouver. Field was a switching station for the broadcast networks. He started at 4 A.M. and quit at midnight, an eight hour shift over twenty hours, splitting the overtime with the other employees. Cliff has a souvenir of those times in a clock that has a special red hour hand that was set to Eastern Standard Time. Cliff closed the office in 1969 after being part of a continuous link from east of Calgary all the way to Halifax, handling telephone, fax and teletype.

One day while he was at work a car from the DOC (Department of Communications) came by his office. Mr. McTavish from the DOC was there to check out the transmitter for the CBC which served the town. After checking on the transmitter he asked about a Cliff Hine. He said he had to give notice for his amateur license test. Cliff told him "I want to take it." Cliff passed the code with no mistakes (100%) sending and receiving and had to draw a super heterodyne receiver, CW transmitter, key click filter, power supply and field strength meter. Cliff did the test at his house. After checking his drawings and asking him some questions he left. When Cliff went down to the CP Station

for Supper he saw McTavish and his wife having dinner. He went over to say hello and asked him how he did. Mrs. McTavish said, "You didn't tell him?" at which point he confirmed that he had passed. Later when he went for his advanced license he had to have been on air and prove a certain number of contacts. Radio Inspector Bill Johnston came out to Field and he did his code test at 15 words per minute sending and receiving and had to answer ten questions on a piece of paper. Cliff told him that question

number ten did not make any sense. Mr. Johnston said, "Well forget that one", and shortly thereafter he received his Advanced Certificate in the mail.

Cliff has had many memorable contacts on air. He worked an Israeli Jet Liner Cockpit on 15 meters, AM Voice and the HMS Bounty, a modern ship that sailed commemorating the Mutineers of the original. When the Russian and Canadian Ski Teams slid over the pole Cliff was there, communicating CW with Amateurs on the team. VE7FD-Cliff worked MIR on voice and Gnome Alaska on 20 metres with a 6" nail for an antenna on his kit built Viking from southern Saskatchewan in 1958. When Cliff was living in the Okanagan, on two meters, FM 147.330 was the channel to be on. He and some fellow hams had converted a ten element TV antenna to a 7 element beam and after hearing nothing between Kelowna and Sicamous they flipped the beam from vertical to horizontal and immediately made contact 5/9. The boys in Vernon couldn't hear it on a vertically polarized antenna. Once in Kelowna they spent five hours looking for a good spot for a repeater up in the hills. While there they hit Whitefish, Montana on AM 20 over 9 with horizontal polarization.

Before Kelowna he was in Salmon Arm working with a taxi radio (converted by changing out the crystal for 2 bucks) with a little beam he was trying out on the kitchen table, when he hit a guy in

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Kamloops. Mike Webb, VE7BCT was in the Kamloops phone book so Cliff gave him a call and was invited to come to Kamloops to show them how they got to Kamloops on 2 meters.

Cliff speaks with great enthusiasm about a beam antenna he bought to work 20 meters from his 50 foot tower. He bought the original HG 205BA which had been sent out from the plant incorrectly assembled. After hearing about this he called the plant in Minnesota and discovered there was a modification kit which the HG plant sent him. As it turns out all the elements had to be changed out but after making the modifications it became the best antenna he had ever used. With the modifications the antenna became the HG 205CA and he discovered he could hear Europe 20/9 hearing nothing else, then turning the beam to Australia and hearing 20/9 and nothing from the side.

In 1973 after 17 years with CP, working in almost every office in Alberta and BC and closing up the Princeton and Field offices, Cliff went to work with AGT (Alberta Government Telephone). Cliff had his interview and after being introduced to the foreman he visited the testing area. It wasn't clear whether he had a new job or not so in his classic go get 'em style he looked up the supervisor's phone number in the book and gave him a call. Cliff was told he "started tomorrow", but had to explain that he needed to give two week notice at the "other company". Soon promoted to line chief, as a Journeyman Technician, Cliff was responsible for thousands of trunk lines and circuits. He notes that when he left CP he was at the top of the scale but as soon as he joined AGT he immediately received a 300 dollar raise right away. In those days the Alberta Government mandated a 1.3% profit for the AGT. He chuckles at the memory of an alternate meaning for the acronym AGT, "Averybody Got Telephone". Cliff spent several years with AGT but got tired of the

commute in to work and moved back to Field, starting a company installing cable television for seventeen years then called it quits.

Cliff has several other hobbies and interests. He and another experienced telegraph operator used to send telegraphy over their phone lines for fun and even more intriguing, he always liked astronomy. A "Deep Woods Sky Gazer" he and his son Mark stayed behind one night on Shuswap Lake after a short presentation by an HR Mac Millan Planetarium staffer with his 17" reflector telescope and saw some amazing sights. The telescope was trained on Jupiter during the time the comet fragments crashed into the giant planet.

He enjoyed fishing especially in North Bend where if you were single you could live in the basement of the centre. They used to take the maintenance car down the railway to a spot off the Fraser where a creek ran down to the river and formed a deep pool where they could catch dinner.

Cliff is a Country Music Man, in particular a "Blue Grass" lover using Roku wireless to choose his TV Stations off the internet where he has been able to find one of his favourite entertainers on a 1 ½ hour special, Mac Wiseman (and the Bluegrass Revival).

Cliff shares his home with his Bride Vivian who was born near Porcupine Plains Saskatchewan, daughter, Son in law and delightfully engaging grandson Colin. With a son and two other daughters he is blessed with lots of grand kids and nearby family company. Here's to a Great Elmer and Canadian who gave so many years of service to all of us through CP, AGT, and Amateur Radio. 73 Cliff! We'll look for you on 146.580 simplex or 2 meter repeaters in Langley, Maple Ridge and Surrey.

~ Geoff VA7HIG





Operational Training Centre Update

John Brodie VA7XB

SARC's Community Gaming Grant Is Turned Down

I am disappointed to report that on Nov. 21st your Executive and the undersigned received an emailed letter from the Community Gaming Grants Branch, Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to advise that our application for a 2016 Gaming Grant had been turned down.

You will recall that our application was for funds to purchase radio equipment in furtherance of our operator training program at the OTC. We apparently failed for a number of reasons, most of which appear to be technicalities or disputable points. Summarized and paraphrased below are the stated shortcomings:

1. Organization Structure - our Bylaw #5(b), which states that "Directors shall be Full or Life Members of the Club" is said to be unnecessarily restrictive and not sufficiently "broadly based" because associate and honorary members may not act as directors [note: SARC has only one honorary member - a politician - and no associate members]. We would dispute that Article 5(b) is unnecessarily restrictive.

Also cited as a problem is Bylaw #5(d), which requires that [paraphrased] "following the AGM, the elected Directors will appoint Officers or, in the absence of a willing or capable Director, other club members may be appointed to the Secretary and Treasurer positions". It is not at all apparent why #5 (d) is objectionable to the Gaming Grants Branch so we must seek clarification.

Also stated is that copies of Resolutions, including changes to the Bylaws made at the 2013 and 2016 AGM, were not provided in our application. However, this is not a valid objection, as a) the 2013 registered

amendments had been embodied into the consolidated copy of the bylaws provided in our application; and b) the 2016 changes were not yet filed or registered and therefore are not officially part of the bylaws.

2. Program - The amount of detail we provided on community-based activities and delivery of our program for the previous 12 months was deemed to be inadequate, specifically details of "training, workshops, emergency preparedness services, simulated exercises, and assisting community events". We shall have to elaborate.

Also, we apparently did not adequately describe the difference between the programs delivered by SARC and the programs delivered by SEPAR as they argue that "a program that is owned and delivered by another entity (such as municipality or organization) would not be eligible for grant funding ...". This misconception about the relative roles of SARC and SEPAR will require correction.

3. An accounting question was raised regarding cash assets v internally restricted funds. We will have to go back to our auditor to get an interpretation as the nature of the problem described is not obvious but we believe that the Gaming Grants Branch has misunderstood the financial statement.

4. Admin - Whereas the amount requested cannot, according to the rules, exceed 75% of the total program cost (which may include in-kind support) there appears to



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"One thing that has become clear is that SARC's role vis-à-vis SEPAR needs to be reviewed and possibly re-defined..."

be a difference in interpretation between SARC and the Gaming Grants Branch as to whether the 75% is applied to the current program cost or to last year's program cost.

From the foregoing, what we appear to have is a combination of: a) minor technicalities which can be remedied, b) questions of interpretation, which may be clarified and probably resolved, and c) deemed deficiencies of information provided, which may require expansion.

One thing that has become clear is that SARC's role vis-à-vis SEPAR needs to be reviewed and possibly re-defined so that there can be no misunderstanding about the distinctly different roles played by each organization. Clearly, the kind of

training SARC offers including the instruction and licensing of new hams, operator training through coaching and contesting and emergency simulation during Field Day (for example) are unique to SARC. The extent to which SEPAR relies on SARC for several critical activities will have to be made apparent.

Two options are available to us: 1) appeal the decision, or 2) simply request clarification of the less obvious items, revise our application and try again. From the discussion at the Nov 23rd Executive meeting, it appears that a combination of these options will be followed.~

~ John VA7XB



It's official, the Surrey Amateur Radio Club and the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society are now officially twinned. The Presidents of both groups have signed the certificate to mark the occasion.

Here's hoping that good things flow from this agreement.

More News...

King Bhumibol Adulyadej HS1A Silent Key

The King of Thailand, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej HS1A passed away on October 13, 2016 at the age of 88. He was born on December 5, 1927 in Cambridge, Massachusetts and ascended to the throne on June 9, 1946.

On August 18, 1989, officers of both the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST) and the Voluntary Radio Association (VRA) had an audience with His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej at Chitralada Palace when a senior Ministry of Communications representative presented an advanced class amateur radio licence bearing the callsign HS1A to His Majesty the King.



Thai radio amateurs were extremely proud that their King had embraced the hobby and during that audience with RAST and VRA officials His Majesty spoke of the positive benefits that the activity brought to the Kingdom and of the responsibilities that each amateur radio operator bears.

Then, some five years later, His Majesty the King was to bestow an even greater honour on Thailand's national amateur radio society, when, in November 1994, he placed RAST under His Patronage.

His Majesty the King had been in poor health in recent years and passed away at Siriraj Hospital at 08:52 GMT on October 13, 2016.

At its peak Thailand had about 248,000 amateur radio licenses although this has fallen recently to around 108,000. The population of the country is about 67 million, similar to the UK.

BBC News Obituary

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-12002901>

First Thai Advanced exam held in 2016

<http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2016/july/first-thai-advanced-ham-radio-exam.htm>

History of Amateur Radio in Thailand

<http://www.qsl.net/rast/History.html>

*At its peak Thailand
had about 248,000
amateur radio
licenses*

Decrypt Morse code via PC sound card

In this Hak5 video Shannon Morse KM6FPP shows how to decrypt Morse code with a simple terminal command and a PC sound card .

Shannon recently passed her amateur radio Technician exam and received the call sign KM6FPP on October 5, 2016.

Watch Decrypt Morse Code via PC Sound Cards - Hak5 2108

<https://www.hak5.org/episodes/season-21/decrypt-morse-code-via-pc-sound-cards-hak5-2108>

Shannon Morse <https://twitter.com/Snubs>

December 2016



The Contest Contender

Fred Orsetti VE7IO

YLs and SSB Contesting From VE7IO's Station

It has been said that YL's in SSB contests have an advantage when in the "run" mode and in my experience this is true.

In 2014 during some casual discussions with YL and OM friends we proposed to operate from my station, VE7IO, in the CQ WPX SSB contest with YL ops only. The team of YL's was a mixture of experienced and non-experienced contest operators so an element of training was present during the contest weekend. We used Marcy's call VE7JT. The operators in the 2014 contest were: Christine, VA7NLF, Jeanne, VA7QLT, Marcy, VE7JT, Pam, VE7PFH, Shirley, VE7SHL, Margaret, VE7TJF.

During the contest, apart from the pile-ups, it was fun to watch these operators work a new DX country and jump up to check the map so see just what they had accomplished.

Was there an increased response from the world to YL operators? You bet there was! The final results for us in the 2014 CQ WPX SSB below left.



VA7NLF

So now to the CQ WW DX SSB contest in 2016. Due to folks moving and having family commitments we had only two YL's that were available, Christine, VA7NLF and Jeanne, VA7QD, this dramatically reduced our on the air time. However, now we had two YL's with contest experience and they jumped into the run mode right at the start. Not only were they capable of running pile-ups but they stayed in the chair for more than 12 hours on the Saturday, this all paid off.

VA7QD @ (VE7IO) Class: M/2 HP
QTH: BC Club: Orca DX and Contest Club

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
160	0	0	0
80	91	4	3
40	170	13	24
20	838	22	45
15	494	17	32
10	0	0	0
Total	1593	56	104

Summary:

Total Score = 513,280
Operating Time: 17.5 hours

In 2016 the bands performed very differently, with 10 non-existent, 40 and 80 much more productive. The numbers to compare here are the Q's and the hours of operation, "RATE", and not the final score

Band	QSOs	Pts	WPX
7	5	26	2
14	184	428	125
21	751	1740	342
28	797	1903	250
Total	1737	4097	719

The total score was 2,945,743 with an operating time of 27 hours.

Not too bad for just over half the contest time and some new contest operators. You will notice that 10 and 15 meters were very productive, 80 not at all and 40 poor. In the 2016 CQ WW DX SSB contest conditions were very different.

as it is different due to multipliers. So in 2014 we had a RATE of 64.5 Q's per hour and in 2016 we had a RATE of 91.02 Q's per hour, a 41% increase. I think most of this increase can be attributed to more experienced operators and time in the chair but some of it is related to the large number of USA stations and the YL factor. During the contest I noticed a larger than expected number of dupes being worked by Christine, VA7NLF, and I commented "I think they just want to talk with you". We all laughed.

Band conditions being very different between these two contests meant that in 2016 we worked very few EU, S8, ZR or JA stations and this was due to significant Auroral activity over the weekend. Our biggest pool of Q's was south of 270° and 90° anything north was very weak or non-existent.

In 2016 there is no doubt that Saturday was a fun day with Jeanne's rate reaching 212 Q/s per hour and sustained rates for both radios of over 250 Q's per hour.

Band conditions were poor, however with two skilled YL ops this contest is memorable and has helped these ops hone their running skills. Both Jeanne and Christine are part of the Vimy, VE100VIMY, team who will be operating from France April 1 - 9, 2017 commemorating the 100th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge. This contest was an

opportunity for them to practice their operating skills. I am looking forward to working YL's while they are in Vimy.

After two YL operator only contests from VE7IO I can say with certainty that YL operators in Side Band contests have an advantage. It just seems that OM's like to make contacts with YL's and that other YL's like to show support for YL operators. This is fun stuff and I hope we can do it again soon.

A big thanks to Stan, VA7NF, who has worked as station manager in both these YL only sessions. Stan has provided great support on band changes, tuning amps and providing shoulder massages.

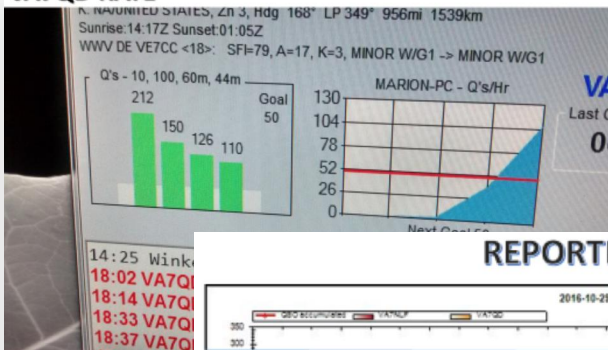
To find out more on the battle of Vimy Ridge you may want to read "Vimy" author, Pierre Berton

From April 1 to 9, 2017, amateur radio operators will activate Canada's Vimy Ridge memorial sites in France. Canadian portable operations are also being planned for each province -- if you'd like to operate VE100VIMY/VE7 during the BC operating period February 12 to 18, contact [Fred VE7IO](#)

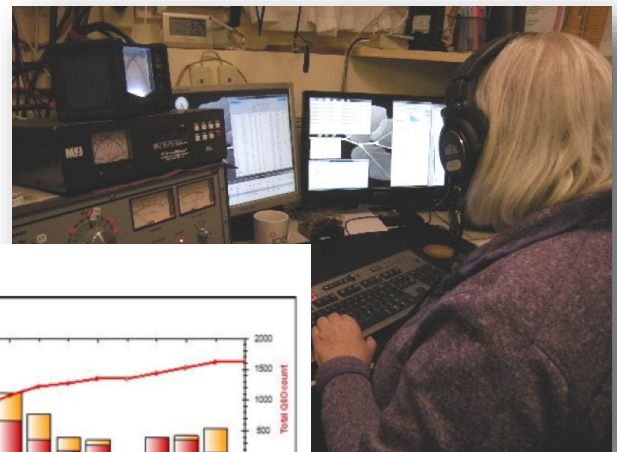
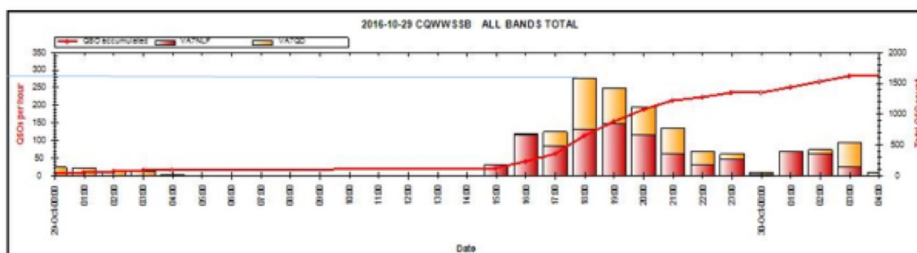
~ Fred VE7IO



VA7QD RATE



REPORTED BY ATHENA



VA7QD

December 2016



The SEPAR Report

Roger Andrews VA7VH

During the Surrey Emergency Program Social these SEPAR members were recognized.

Congratulations to:

Peter Gauld - 5 Year Service award

Dixie Mogg - 5 Year Service award

On November 17, 2016 SEPAR members were invited to the Surrey Emergency Program Social. The Social was an opportunity for the City of Surrey to thank their emergency service volunteers. SEPAR is part of a group of Surrey volunteers that includes ourselves, Emergency Social Services, and Search and Rescue.

The guest speaker at the event was Geologist, Dr. John Clague and he presented information about earthquakes as they relate to our region. This was an excellent presentation and I would recommend that you google "Dr. John Clague youtube". Or if you like, the beginning of this video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KD0BRSS8U>) is a good BC area earthquake primer. Dr. Clague reminded us that preparedness is a social activity. Neighbours need to spur neighbours into getting prepared. Please feel free to pass interesting links to your friends and neighbours. Everyone needs to be prepared, not just emergency volunteers.

2016 Surrey Emergency Program (SEP) Impact Awards:

2016 SEP Impact Awards. These awards were formed to honor and recognize volunteers that embody the City of Surrey core values and showcase these values with the utmost quality and merit.

Garvin Yee

"Gavin has always been an important part of the SEPAR group. His loss of sight never deterred him from participating in our training events or providing support. The past few years he had provided critical communications to SEPAR members keeping them up to date with current information and reminders of how we need to be prepared ourselves first. Sadly we have now lost Garvin as he passed away suddenly last month. The effort he put into this volunteer position was always more than expected and an example to all of us. We will miss his participation, input, ideas, and especially his humour." - Assistant Chief Griffioen.

Dixie Mogg

"Dixie has been an enthusiastic member of SEPAR. Her interest in emergency communications started with a desire to be prepared and led to her getting her amateur radio licence. After joining SEPAR she has continued to be an active participant consistently checking in on our weekly nets and always able to provide net control when needed. She is well known in the local amateur radio area as a



Surrey Emergency Program Amateur Radio

friendly voice on the air, always willing to assist others. It was her encouragement and provision of transportation that assisted Garvin in becoming so actively involved in SEPAR. We owe her a great debt of gratitude.” -Assistant Chief Griffioen.

Our training continues and those that have been listening to the Tuesday Net know that we have been practicing passing NTS (National Traffic System) Radiogram messaging. If you have not heard us or do not know the NTS format you can find the manual on the internet. Please feel free to join in.

A reminder that there is no SEPAR December training due to the Holiday / Christmas season. Training will continue again in January.

Every Tuesday evening at 1930 hrs (7:30pm PDT) we start a ½ hour NET on the local repeater provided by the Surrey Amateur Radio Club (SARC) on 147.360 MHz. We may do our normal checkin and then switch to simplex or remain on the repeater and there may be a test NTS message transmitted during the NET. It's up to the controller. This is an excellent opportunity to practice receiving this form of messaging. Besides, it adds a little spice to the regular check-ins on the net.

Please join us. NTS Radiograms can be found on the SEPAR website <http://separ.comm.sfu.ca/forms/Radiogram.pdf>, or, if you would like a fillable PDF that you can enter on your computer, you can get it from http://separ.comm.sfu.ca/forms/Radiogram_Fillable.pdf.

Thursday nights at 19:30 hours, we only provide Simplex operations starting on frequency 146.550 and changing frequencies and bands for further signal checking. During these tests, we encourage those with mobile or hand held capabilities to try different locations each time to become more knowledgeable as to what to expect in a real disaster. We are unable to predict where we will be located when we are needed. Additional training sessions and practice exercises are scheduled throughout the year including participation with other departments and agencies. Also a good opportunity to practice being net control.

SEPAR is always looking for members. If you want more information please contact me at VA7VH@rezgas.com and I'll direct you on the process.

~ Roger VA7VH

A reminder that there is no SEPAR December training due to the Holiday Christmas season. Training will continue again in January.

Santa Net 2016!

Every year on 3916 Khz, we give good little boys and girls a chance to talk to Santa Claus at the North Pole! It is indeed a magical experience to experience kids talking with Santa through the magic of Amateur Radio!

The Santa Net is on the air every night, November 25th through December 24th at 7:30 PM Central.

To participate in The Santa Net, just have your kids prepared to tell Santa their top 2-3 gift wishes.

Prenet Check Ins Welcome

Reserve a spot with Santa by making a pre-net check in. You can check in either on the air starting at 7 PM (Central) or by emailing KE5G-GY@gmail.com

Ho Ho Ho and Merry Christmas from The 3916 Nets!!



December 2016



Adam's Tech Topics

Adam Foley N1RKW

The Hobbyist's Workbench

It's hard to believe, but this is actually the 30th article I've written for The Communicator. I've had a lot of fun researching and writing these articles, and I've had a lot of positive responses to what I've written. Heck, I've even been asked to share these articles with the Surrey Amateur Radio Club in British Columbia, half a continent away! What an honor! People from two different ham radio clubs thousands of miles away want to hear ME ramble on about resistors and chokes and filters and power cords and radios and SDRs and gunk and junk and everything else?!? Yeah, I'm okay with that.

That's not to say that I have a large, furry ego that needs to be stroked like some oversized housecat. I'm just happy that people like reading what I have to say, and even a bit surprised. I'm just a normal guy, or at least that's how I feel inside. I guess it's the height of hubris for a big, fat guy with a bushy beard and a candy-apple red mobility scooter to refer to himself as "normal". Maybe I am a bit on the outside of the bell curve. Perhaps that's why you folks read what I write. Maybe that's why you elected me as your club president, much to my surprise. This last sentence, of course, does not apply to my Canadian readers.

Having written 30 articles leaves me with a bit of a conundrum. I'm running out of ideas! I guess this is the part of the article where I beg and plead with you to send me your ideas, suggestions, and questions so that I can keep writing Adam's Junk Box every month. Please keep them coming!

Fortunately, I have received a few good suggestions lately, and this month's article will be answering one of those suggested topics: static electricity issues and general workbench safety. Okay, maybe that's

actually two topics, but it seemed like a good idea to deal with them in one article.

First off, The Stupid Disclaimer:

The content of this article is the opinion of this writer, nothing more. It is intended as advice to be used with discretion and caution. Any and all personal safety is your own responsibility. Only you can keep you safe. Don't blame someone else if you mess up and hurt yourself! (and please don't get hurt) (and please don't sue me if you do)

The hobbyist's workbench can be good source of injury for someone looking for an excuse to miss a few days of work, but for the rest of us that actually wish to keep all of our digits and eyeballs there are some things we can do to avoid that sort of thing. Safety is, of course, very important, but it can be overdone. For instance, you probably don't need a full SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) setup when you're only doing a bit of soldering. A simple fan with a charcoal filter will work just fine for keeping rosin fumes out of your lung. You probably also don't need a full climbing harness setup for using a small three-step ladder, unless you're as clumsy as I am. A little caution will probably work just fine for helping you to avoid falling and breaking another leg or two.

Common sense goes a long way toward keeping yourself from making unexpected trips to the hospital, but common sense doesn't just magically appear inside a careful person's brain. We joke about knowing which end of the soldering iron to hold, but without some basic education on how soldering irons function even the most intelligent person in the world would grab it by the wrong end when handed one,

though they would probably drop it pretty quickly. Therefore, having a basic knowledge of all of the tools you use is vital if you want to keep all of the fingers you were born with.



The Handle The Hot Part The Really Hot Part

Speaking of soldering irons, let's go over some basics. First, don't touch the hot end, or the hot middle either, for that matter. It's not just the tip of a pencil style soldering iron that gets hot. The entire portion of the iron south of the plastic handle gets extremely hot in normal use. Even the end of the handle closest to the tip can get a bit too warm to handle after the iron has been on for a while, though it's unlikely to get hot enough to cause you an injury unless it's actually caught on fire. If that unlikely event does happen, unplug the soldering iron immediately and do whatever you need to do to get it safely out of your hands before they catch fire also. Then quickly spray some water on it from the water bottle that you keep nearby before it sets anything else on fire.

What do you mean, "What water bottle?" The water bottle that every electronics bench should have on it mostly for wetting soldering sponges, but also for putting out the occasional energetic chemical reaction (fire!), that's what! In all seriousness, keeping a small bottle of water nearby can be very handy for not only the aforementioned soldering sponges and energetic chemical reactions, but also can be very handy for cleaning almost anything, and any number of other things beyond just being a cheap fire extinguisher. I use an old soda bottle with a nice, tight cap and add just a bit of mouthwash to the water to keep it from turning into a bacterial wonderland.

As ridiculous as it sounds, even simple tools like screwdrivers can cause injuries if mishandled. I know this from first-hand

experience, or more accurately: first-hand injury. I know we've all heard that we should wear eye protection when using ANY tool, but there is logic in this suggestion. I can't count the number of times that I've had a slotted-tip screwdriver slip out of the screw I'm trying to work with and go flying off in a random direction. This is even more likely to happen when (inappropriately) using said screwdriver as a prying tool. I can tell you precisely how much it hurts to jam a screwdriver tip deep into the palm of your hand: It hurts like crazy! And the ensuing infection and several weeks of healing time aren't much fun either. It's far better just to use the thing the right way in the first place (not as a prying tool). I once worked for a retired Marine who had a metal sign hung up in his office written in English and Arabic that read, "Use the right tool for the right job." I can't think of better advice than that.

As for wearing safety glasses around the shop or at the bench, remember that flying steel is a heck of a lot faster than your blink reflex. This goes for almost every workshop tool you can work with. Hammers can have chunks of metal fly off at high speed. Drills can shatter and go flying. Wire cutters can send pieces of wire straight at your face (I swear the darn things sometimes even change course mid-flight!). Even the humble screwdriver can launch small screws off at nearly the speed of ouch. I know I sound like a bit of a nanny, but safety glasses are a must in the home shop and workbench. Your remaining eye will thank you.

Electrical safety is even more important. Doing the wrong thing with electricity can not only injure or kill you, it can injure and kill everyone in your home by setting the place on fire. The potential dangers involved with those harmless looking holes in the wall

As ridiculous as it sounds, even simple tools like screwdrivers can cause injuries if mishandled.

ADAM'S JUNK BOX

A Monthly Column By
Adam Foley N1RKW



Guest Columnist Adam Foley N1RKW is a member of the Central New Hampshire Amateur Radio Club and contributes a monthly column "Adam's Junk Box" to their newsletter, also called The Communicator.

Adam also has a [YouTube Channel](#)

December 2016

"Electrical safety is even more important. Doing the wrong thing with electricity can not only injure or kill you"

that we get our power from are so extreme that I don't think that I can do them justice in this article. All I can say is that if you don't have the proper training to work in/on/around line power, DON'T work in/on/around line power. Plugging and unplugging electrical devices is, naturally, perfectly safe when grasping the plug and not touching the metal prongs or yanking by the cord. Anything beyond that should be handled by a properly trained electrician.

That being said, if you are talented with a soldering iron and wish to work on line powered devices such as radios, it is possible to do so with a modicum of safety. Know your wiring ahead of time, and don't mix it up. If there is any question in your mind about how something is supposed to go, don't guess. Look up the answer/procedure/schematic. Never work on anything while it's plugged in, even if you think it's off. Just don't. If you absolutely must work on a device that's live (for example, for diagnostic purposes), do not use both hands at one time. Keep one hand behind your back, this will make it less likely that the electricity will find a path through your heart.

Speaking of electricity, do you know how many volts your average integrated circuit (IC) can handle? Generally less than 50, and more commonly these days less than 5! So when you walk up to the brand new mobile rig sitting on your bench and blast it with the 15,000 volt charge you've accumulated while walking across the carpet, you're really pressing your luck. Most of the time the radio's metal chassis will shield the much more delicate components within and no harm will be done. However, every now and then the charge will find a path through an IC, do an absolutely cruel job of hacking the microscopic transistor gates to pieces inside of that IC, and leave you with several hundred dollars worth of pristine looking paperweight. This is much more likely in components that aren't as well protected as our radios tend to be. I can't count the number of times I've read complaints of DOA computer components online and wondered if the person making

the complaint had bothered to spend \$5 on a simple anti-static wrist strap, much less actually use the darn thing.

"Dryer sheets."

There, I said it.

Naturally, you're probably wondering why I said that. The reason is simple: They have marvelous powers of static electricity dissipation. Have you ever brushed your hand across an analog meter and caused the needle to swing or even stick in place?



That's due to an electric charge being transferred from your hand to the meter. Have you ever ran your hands through a buddy's hair and caused his/her hair to stand on end? Same thing. Have you ever rubbed a cat across your hair and then stuck it to the ceiling? Also static electricity. And that works better with a balloon instead of a cat, but feel free to try it out with a cat anyway as long as you are wearing proper cat-handling safety gear (chain mail, full polycarbonate face shield, Kevlar vest).

Since charging things up with static electricity is probably a bad thing to do when working with sensitive electronics, dryer sheets are the answer. Rubbing the aforementioned meter face with a dryer sheet will release the static charge, causing the meter to operate normally again (you can also just ground it out as shown above if you, like me, don't have any dryer sheets on hand). The same is true with your buddy's head and the cat, but it's doubtful that either one will tolerate being rubbed down with a dryer sheet after what you've already done to them. However, your workbench probably won't mind one bit, and it can help prevent charges from building up as you work. It's also possible to buy antistatic work mats and even entire workbenches

designed and built to prevent static charges from building up. Some of these even include places to plug your anti-static wrist straps into. If you don't have a bench like that, you can attach your wrist strap's wire to any decent ground point.

Caution: Do not ever buy or use "wireless" anti-static wrist straps! These are a scam, and do not work at all. The only thing they do is to put your hard earned shekels into some unscrupulous jerk's back pocket. The real things only cost around \$5 from a reputable seller. A genuine anti-static wrist strap consists of the wrist strap itself which is some kind of bracelet that allows for contact between the wearer's skin and some kind of conductive contact, a wire to carry the charge (usually curly like a mic cord), and some kind of clip or connector on the end of that wire that allows you to connect it to ground. It should look kinda like this.



The fakes look the same, minus the wire that actually carries the charge to ground!

Speaking of static, and speaking of safety: Playing with capacitors can be a boatload of fun. It can also be incredibly dangerous! Capacitors are devices that store an electric charge between two metallic plates. Small ones are generally quite harmless, but when they get big watch out!

Those particular caps I acquired at a local hamfest for only \$10 for the set. Not bad! However, let's take a quick look at how much energy they can store. They are rated for 10,000 microFarads (μF) each, at up to 250 volts. That's 0.01 Farad. One Farad is equal to 1 Ampere of current at 1 Volt for a duration of one second. That's a surprising amount of energy. Combined,

those five capacitors can put out the same amount of power as four V8 pickup truck engines combined!

...For a fraction of a second anyway. Still, if your heart or brain gets hit with that amount of energy, it will be the very last time you ever play with capacitors.

By the way, those are small capacitors. I've seen some industrial capacitors so large that they could only be moved around with a forklift. Capacitors like those require that a shorting bar be in place (to insure that there was no remaining charge in the capacitor) at all times when they weren't in use. Some high voltage

capacitors can contain so much energy that people use them for things like "coin shrinking". Look that one up, it's a fun and interesting way to mess around with lethal amounts of electricity that I don't recommend anyone actually do. Playing with capacitors can be a lot of fun, but give them the respect they deserve.

Ah, here we are at the end of Adam's Junk Box #30. Thank you for reading, if you still are by now. Please keep the ideas and questions coming, and I'll keep these articles coming. You can reach me in the normal electronic way: my call sign at hot mail dot com.

~ Adam Foley N1RKW
Reprinted with permission



*Some BIG Capacitors
Stapler Shown For Size Comparison*

Adam Foley N1RKW has been around ham radio most of his life, but didn't smarten up and get his license until 2008. Since then he has gone on to great heights (the 12' high roof of his old house, and the 3rd floor apartment he's in now), and recently decided to take up writing a monthly column about ham radio and electronics, two of the subjects he knows a little bit about (but not much). He lives in Laconia, NH with his incredibly tolerant wife and equally tolerant son and can be reached at I can be reached by email via N1RKW at hotmail dot com.

December 2016

Reflecting On 2016...



The SARC Christmas Party

Maybe you're not too late...

But you'd better hurry!



Where: Occasions on the Pond,
14320 57 Ave, Surrey

When: 10th December, 2016 **Time:** 11:30 am until 2 pm

Cost: \$25 per person for members & guests (Pre pay is preferred)

Cost: \$30 per person for non - members

Come and join us for; roast turkey and all the trimmings, salad, pasta salad, Christmas squares. Tea & coffee.

Awards and door prizes will be part of the event.

RSVP jinty.reid@gmail.com ASAP as time is running out.





Ham Tidbits

Field Day 2016 Results Are In!

Well, SARC did it again! For a last minute planning effort it worked out quite well for our Field Day participants. Following our big win in 2015, working strictly from battery power and with a lot of planning, we were forced to scale back considerably this year.

Having been granted access to our Surrey Amateur Radio Operations and Training Centre facility shortly before June, we were able to look at a new category (3-Delta) for our operation. Some quick planning resulted in a team of operators and assistants, several transceivers and 'Big Yellow' parked outside the window. Although it may not have been to the scale, nor as impressive as past efforts, it was a lot more comfortable being able to operate entirely within the facility with comfortable furniture, good washrooms and sleeping facilities.

Congratulations to our team. This is the first time we have taken first place not only in Canada, but overall in our category, and by an impressive margin!

The top finishers:

1. VE7SAR BC 3,626 points
2. W1GLO EMA 960 points
3. KF5U STX 824 points

Now who is going to volunteer to lead the 2017 team?

~ John VE7TI

SARC Field Day 2016 Coordinator

Google Glass Can Teach Morse Code In 4 Hours

Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology in the US decided to use Glass for this study because it has both a built-in speaker and tapper.

Scientists have used Google Glass to teach people Morse code within four hours using a series of vibratic "dots" and "dashes". Participants learned it without paying attention to the signals – they played games while feeling the taps and hearing the corresponding letters. After those few hours, they were 94 per cent accurate keying a sentence that included every letter of the alphabet and 98 per cent accurate keying a letter. Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology in the US decided to use Glass for this study because it has both a built-in speaker and tapper (Glass's bone-conduction transducer).



In the study, participants played a game while feeling vibration taps between their temple and ear. The taps represented the dots and dashes of Morse code and passively "taught" users through their tactile senses – even while they were distracted by the game. The taps were created when researchers sent a very low-frequency signal to Glass's speaker system. At less than 15 Hertz, the signal was below hearing range but, because it was played very slowly, the sound was felt as a vibration.

Half of the participants in the study felt the vibration taps and heads a voice prompt for each corresponding letter. The other half - the control group - felt no taps to help them learn. Participants were tested throughout the study on their knowledge of Morse code and their ability to type it. After less than four hours of feeling every letter, everyone was challenged to type the alphabet in Morse code in a final test. The control group was accurate only half the time. Those who felt the passive cues were nearly perfect.

"This research also shows that other common devices with an actuator could be used for passive haptic learning," said Thad Starner, professor at Georgia Tech.

December 2016



Radio Amateurs of Canada

Distracted Driving Update

Distracted driving regulations continue to be an area of interest for many Canadian Radio Amateurs. These regulations are made and enforced by provincial governments and can vary considerably from province to province and over time. Radio Amateurs of Canada has prepared a list of links to current regulations in all provinces that have established them.

They can be found at:

<http://wp.rac.ca/distracted-driving-regulations-update/>

Radio Amateurs of Canada representatives in our regions often work to clarify regulations where Amateurs may be caught up in them or when the regulations are being created or modified. A

Subcommittee has been formed to monitor the legislation and work with government officials on a province by province basis to look after the interests of Canadian Amateurs. This committee is under the direction of RAC British Columbia/Yukon Director, Bill Gipps, VE7XS. Two provinces are the focus of current activity: British Columbia and Ontario.

In British Columbia, Bill Gipps, VE7XS, together with two local Amateurs, recently met with BC government

representatives to discuss BC distracted driving regulations and their application to Amateur Radio.

They have had three meetings to date and recently completed two excellent working sessions. The BC Amateurs are pleased with the significant progress made through these sessions and will continue to follow the process while the BC government engages other stakeholders and solicits their input. Bill anticipates that there will be more news and clarifying material available before Christmas and we will post the information on the RAC website when it is available.

In Ontario, a temporary exemption for Amateurs in Ontario is due to expire on January 1, 2018. RAC Ontario South Director Phil McBride, VA3QR and RAC North/East Director, Al Boyd, VE3AJB, have obtained letters of support from Ontario Amateurs and are looking for additional letters of support from organizations such as Amateur Radio clubs and ARES groups. They have also been in touch with the Minister of Transportation and have received word that the Ontario government is considering the Amateur Radio exemption issue.

RAC will continue to provide additional information about distracted driving regulations on the RAC website as it unfolds. If you have any questions or concerns or you would like to send a letter of support, please feel free to contact your Director at any time at the address shown on page 4 of The Canadian Amateur magazine and at: <http://wp.rac.ca/board-of-directors/>

~ Bill Gipps, VE7ISV/VE7XS
Director British Columbia/Yukon








December 2016

December 2016



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>For details on all SARC events, go to ve7sar.net</p> <p>For details on all SEPARS events, go to separ.shutterfly.com/calendar</p>				1 1930 SEPAR Simplex Check-in	2	3 0900 Klub Koffee Klatch: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave.
4	5	6 1915 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	7	8 1930 SEPAR Simplex Check-in	9	10 SARC Christmas Party Occasions on the Pond, 14320 57 Ave. 
11	12	13 1915 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	14	15 1930 SEPAR Simplex Check-in	16	17 0900 Klub Koffee Klatch: Kalmar Family Restaurant Contest: RAC Winter Contest 
18	19	20 1915 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	21  Smile... It's Winter!	22 1930 SEPAR Simplex Check-in	23	24 0800 Klub Koffee Klatch: Kalmar Family Restaurant
25 	26	27 1915 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	28	29 1930 SEPAR Simplex Check-in	30	31 Happy New Year 

Contest Details: <http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

December 2016

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2015-2016

PRESIDENT

Stan Williams VA7NF

VICE PRESIDENT

Anton James VE7SSD

SECRETARY

Jeremy Morse VE7TMY

TREASURER

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA

DIRECTORS

John Schouten VE7TI
(Communicator Editor)

Bill Gipps VE7XS

Sheldon Ward VA7XNL

Mike Plant VE7AT

On the Web

ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements can also be found on our web page, or via:

Twitter

[@ve7sar](https://twitter.com/ve7sar)

FaceBook

[SurreyAmateurRadio](https://www.facebook.com/SurreyAmateurRadio)

Our YouTube Channel

[SurreyARC](https://www.youtube.com/SurreyARC)

SARC Photo Albums

Web Albums

or

tinyurl.com/SARCphoto

QRT

John Schouten VE7TI

Reflecting On The Season

Another year has come and gone and it went by very quickly. It was a year of great advances for the club. Not only did we get a great facility as an Amateur Radio Training Center (the OTC), but we also enjoyed a good Field Day, our first with an overall win in our category, and with little of the discomforts normally associated with the event. It was dry, we had good washroom and sleeping facilities and we weren't so tired before it started and after it finished that we were truly able to enjoy the event.

The foxhunt was another success and was enjoyed by several newly graduated hams from our Spring Basic Class, who, by the way were very successful in the hunt with very competitive times on both the 2m and 80m courses.

Speaking of classes, we presented two Basic classes this past year with a good success rate and an indication of some true hobbyists to come as a result. The next course is anticipated to start in March 2017.

I'd also like to remember the club members and other Amateurs who became Silent Keys this past year. Some were no longer actively involved, primarily due to restrictive living accommodations or

infirmity but they contributed freely of their time and talents to serve the Club and their community.

I'd like to end the year by thanking all who contribute to this monthly newsletter, particularly those who I can rely upon to do it month after month—you know who you are—your names appear throughout these publications. A special thank you to guest columnist Adam Foley N1RKW who is often first in with his column, and who, through his writings, imparts a spirit that truly reflects Amateur Radio. I'm hoping more of you will step-up and submit your take on a subject, share a personal Ham experience or find an interesting article elsewhere and submit it for publication here (as long as you get permission from the author). I've found that most of them willingly share as long as they get their due credit.

On behalf of the Directors of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club I wish all of you and your families the best of the season and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year! We look for even better Amateur Radio experiences in 2017.

~ John VE7TI
Communicator Editor

Happy Holidays!



It's December

Our meeting for December is the Christmas luncheon on the 10th at 11:30am with our next General Meeting at the SW PREOC on January 11th. We hope you are able to join us for the Christmas event, it's a nice opportunity to meet socially and you have a good chance of walking away with a door prize.

Thank you Jinty for putting the event together.

For the January meeting we look forward to Stan Williams' software defined radio (SDR) presentation, part 2 and an SDR demo. Sheldon Ward will review the Club items for sale and demonstrate his experiences with the WSPR project.

Down The Log...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wed. (Sept-Jun)
1900 hr at the PREOC
Emergency Mgmt BC
14275 96th Avenue,
Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Saturday at 0900 hr
Kalmar Family Restaurant
8076 King George Blvd.
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hr local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 1915 hr local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

VE7RSC Repeaters

2m: 147.360MHz+
Tone= 110.9Hz
IRLP node 1736
Echolink node 496228

1.2m: 223.960 Mhz -1.6
Tone=110.9

70cm: 443.775MHz+
Tone= 110.9Hz
IRLP node 1737

SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, also accessible on IRLP node 1736 and Echolink node 496228.

On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 or IRLP Node 1737.

	SARC Net 20:00 Hrs
1 st Tuesday Standby	Drew VA7DRW Rob VE7CZV
2 nd Tuesday Standby	Jinty VA7JMR Sheldon VA7XNL
3 rd Tuesday Standby	Rob VE7CZV Vacant
4 th Tuesday Standby	Kapila VE7KGK John VA7XB
5 th Tuesday Standby	Robert VA7FMR Rob VE7CZV
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the SARC Net Manager	



We Have A SARC Patch!

These are suitable for sewing on a jacket, cap or your jammies, so you can proudly display your support for the club.

The price is \$4 each or three for \$10 and they can be picked up at a meeting or the weekly Koffee Klatch.

Burnaby Radio Communications

Michael J. Wong VE7HMY
President/Owner

4257 Hastings Street
Burnaby, B.C. V5C 2J5
Phone 604-298-5444
Fax 604-298-5455

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web: www.burnabyradio.com

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